Meeting Minutes
Frederick County Sustainability Commission
Wednesday, June 19, 2013, 3:00 p.m.
Catoctin Creek Park and Nature Center

***Present*:** Tom Anderson, Robert Black, J.J. Hartner, Dick Ishler, Tim Jones, Margie Lance, Fred Ugast, Lonnie Ropp, Charlie Dalphon

Office of Sustainability and Environmental Resources (OSER) Staff: Shannon Moore, Lisa Orr, Darlene Bucciero, Sabrina Harder

Other attendees: Rich Maranto

1. **Call to Order and Welcome**

   Chair Margie Lance called the meeting to order at 3:05 p.m.

2. **Administrative Items**

   Chris informed Margie that he will resign as Vice Chair and will not move up to become Chair.
   Approval of minutes: Fred Ugast made a motion to approve minutes and Tim Jones seconded. Motion was approved by unanimous consent.

3. **Overview of the MD Renewable Portfolio Standards and the MD Solar Market: Fred Ugast**

   An increase of solar has occurred in Maryland driven by dramatic reductions in costs and increased incentives. Panels are now selling for less than $0.70 per watt.

   Incentives: The primary federal incentive is a 30% tax credit. The state Renewable Portfolio Standard (RPS) law requires utilities/generators /load distribution entities to provide minimum RPS. MD is 20% renewable by 2022 with a specific carve-out for 2% solar in MD by 2020. The percent scales up over time. A supplier can purchase Solar Renewable Energy Credits (SRECs) from sellers who have solar installations in MD. SRECs separate green values from the electrons. If you want green electricity, you can produce it, sell the SRECs and purchase green tags which are cheaper. The state also has solar grants.

   Without SRECs, a residential system costs around $3.50/watt or $3,500/kW. If it generates 1200 kWh/yr that is around $120 of electricity, so the payback is close to 30 years, the life of the system. Project Sunshot has a goal of reducing costs to $1/watt.

The buying and selling of SRECs takes place on the PJM-EIS Generation Attribute Tracking System (GATS). If a generator does not have SRECs, a fine of $400/MWh must be paid in 2013.

Large systems have been installed in MD including a 29MW facility at the prison in Hagerstown, 17MW facility at Mount St. Mary's University. Reported project capacity currently exceeds requirements and is enough to meet 2013 goals. There is a difference between capacity and the number of SRECs generated, however. About 1200 kWh is generated per 1 kW capacity. This represents 1.2 SRECs. The SREC market in 2013 is soft.

Above 20-25% solar, the current grid will have problems with surges in some feeder lines. We are nowhere near that number yet. The grid will need more peaking capacity. This points to a need for storage and demand response.

At the end of 2008 there were 6 systems registered on GATs for Frederick County versus 159 by the ened of 2012. The Frederick County Solarize program is on track to add an additional 40% with 60 new installations). By the end of 2012, Frederick County had almost 20,000 kW installed capacity. Fort Detrick will install 12-15 MW by the end of 2014. The PPA rate on this project is $0.075 with an escalator of 4.3%/year.

Power Purchase Agreements (PPAs) are one way that people can afford solar. The attractiveness of a PPA is the price per kWh. The purchaser must have a demand for electricity.

4. Solarize Frederick Update: Lisa Orr

Lisa Orr gave a presentation on the Solarize inititative. This is a project of Frederick County Government in partnership with pilot communities in Myersville (the holder of the MOU) and the Villages of Urbana. The project has the goal of 30 photovoltaic and 30 solar hot water installations through tiered pricing schedules for volume discounts and grants. Astrum Solar was the awardee for the PV installs and Solar Energy Services (SES) won the work for the hot water installs. The project is a special initiative of the Renewable Star Challenge in the Green Homes Challenge. The average installation to date is 7.9 kW, with 200kW under contract, and at the time of the presentation, 92.5% of the greenhouse gas emissions goal had been met. Solar PV grants are $2000 or $2500 for certified Power Savers (as part of the Green Homes Challenge- these grants are no longer available as of 8/19/2013). Hot water grants are $705 and $1000 (these were doubled after the presentation and are still available as of 8/19/2013).

Solar hot water savings depend greatly on the kind of fuel you use to heat your hot water and the number of people in your house.

5. Incentives on Green Building Construction: Darlene Bucciero

Darlene presented the results of a report that was conducted by graduate students at the George Washington University. The report was done in partnership with Frederick County's Office of Sustainability and Environmental Resources to learn how to encourage more builders and developers to use green building techniques. A number of suggestions were made. The strongest one was to allow builders to reduce connection fees for water and sewer if they use water conserving toilets and urinals. This is because the fees for this item are the highest.

6. **Updates and Comments**

Charlie: New Market and Lincoln will be LEED with ground source heat pumps. Frederick High School may use natural gas.

Margie: Attended "Beyond Genuine Progress Indicators" event with the Governor. What do we want to grow? What do we want to count? She referred to the definition of Sustainability from the 1992 Rio Earth Summit.

Dick: Earned his National Association of Realtors "Green Realtor" Certification

Tom: Did lighting replacements in his shop with 50watt LED flood lamps he found on the internet

Bobby: Had a conference call with US Secretary of Agriculture Tom Vilsack on immigration related to problems bringing in seasonal workers

Tim: Created the Efficiency First Trade Association chapter in Maryland and is Treasurer.

Shannon: New watershed report and factsheets are out.

7. **Green Roof Tour 4:45PM**

8. **Adjourn – 5:00 p.m.**

Minutes submitted by Shannon Moore.